

not only a similar calyptra, but calyptræ also occur at all the healthy parts of the compound roots of the full-grown plant, proving evidently that the *Pistia* are floating plants during the entire period of their existence. The second, but later developed, leaf of the germinating plant has the same flat disk-like form as the first gemmule leaf, and the third is the first which appears to have the *æstivatio conduplicata* of the later leaves. As soon as these three leaves have spread themselves on the water, a large quantity of simple radiculæ are developed downwards, among which, at times, occur compound roots similar in miniature to those of the grown plant. The result of these observations is therefore, that *Pistia* from the structure of its gemmula and from its germination approaches to *Lemna*, but as this latter in all other respects stands in a much inferior scale of organization, it is impossible to agree with Lindley, who brings them both together in one family, the *Pistiaceæ*; but it would be best to make of the two plants two different small anomalous families of the *Aroideæ*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NEW BRITISH ZOOPHYTE.

Miss Attersoll has lately discovered, on the coast of Sussex, the *Cornularia rugosa* of Cavolini, growing on a *Tubularia*, and has communicated specimens of these interesting zoophytes to the British Museum. This genus has hitherto been believed to be confined to the Mediterranean. It differs from most other thorny zoophytes in the tentacles being pinnate like those of *Gorgonia*.—J. E. Gray.

SPEAKING CANARY BIRD.

The attention of some of our friends has lately been called to what, so far as we know, is a novel fact, namely, the power of articulation having been acquired by a canary-bird, in the possession of Mrs. Hardy, of No. 28, Piccadilly, by whom it was brought up from the nest. This docile little creature has certainly learnt to imitate with surprising success some phrases which had often been addressed to it, and possesses a faculty which had never been suspected in the family to which it belongs.

LARUS MINUTUS.

A beautiful adult specimen, in the winter plumage, was shot near Newton, Northumberland, by the sea, in February, 1838, and is now in possession of Mr. Embleton, surgeon, Embleton. This is the first recorded instance of its appearance upon the Northumbrian coast.—P. J. S.